

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW NIACT IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:SOPN

SUBJECT:SPOKESMAN'S RESPONSE ON TECHNICAL PENETRATION

REF: MOSCOW 13117

1. FYI. THE FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF A
RESPONSE MADE BY THE SPOKESMAN TO A QUESTION AT TODAY'S
PRESS BRIEFING. OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT WILL FOLLOW AS SOON
AS AVAILABLE.

2. BEGIN RESPONSE. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ON JUNE 8 NOTED
A TASS STORY DESCRIBING A REPRESENTATION WHICH THE SOVIET
FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS SAID TO HAVE MADE TO THE DEPARTMENT RE-
GARDING ASSERTIONS AND CHARGES AGAINST OUR EMBASSY IN MOS-
COW. HOWEVER TASS HAS ITS FACTS WRONG. NO SUCH REPRESENTA-
TION HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AS OF NOW.
MOREOVER, THE ASSERTIONS AND CHARGES REPORTED BY TASS ARE
ABSURD.

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3. NOW, IT IS NOT NORMAL DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE FOR ONE
GOVERNMENT TO COMMUNICATE WITH ANOTHER THROUGH A NEWS AGENCY
WIRE SERVICE. PRESUMABLY THERE HAS BEEN SOME MIX-UP, AND
THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY WILL IN DUE COURSE STRAIGHTEN
OUT THE MATTER. IT WOULD APPEAR, NONETHELESS, THAT THE
SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY DOES INTEND TO DELIVER A MESSAGE TO

THE DEPARTMENT AND THAT IT WILL DEAL WITH THE DISCOVERY BY OUR EMBASSY ON MAY 25 OF AN EAVESDROPPING DEVICE CONCEALED IN A CHIMNEY. IN VIEW OF THE INTEREST THE TASS STORY HAS AROUSED, THE FOLLOWING IS THE SUBSTANCE OF A DIPLOMATIC NOTE DELIVERED BY OUR EMBASSY IN MOSCOW TO THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY ON MAY 31 PROTESTING THE INTRUSION INTO THE EMBASSY'S CHIMNEY.

4. IN ITS NOTE THE EMBASSY INFORMED THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT THE EMBASSY HAD UNCOVERED A SECRET LISTENING

POST AND ELECTRONIC SPYING DEVICES WITHIN ITS CHANCERY BUILDING AND UNCOVERED AN UNDERGROUND TUNNEL EXTENDING A CONSIDERABLE DISTANCE THROUGH THE EMBASSY'S PROPERTY CONNECTING THIS INSTALLATION WITH A NEIGHBORING SOVIET APARTMENT BUILDING. FOLLOWING DISCOVERY OF THIS INSTALLATION, THE ELECTRONIC CABLES OPERATING THE POST WERE FOUND TO BE ENERGIZED. MOREOVER, SOVIET PERSONNEL HAD BEEN OBSERVED TO ENTER AND OCCUPY THE TUNNEL FROM THE END CONNECTING TO THE SOVIET APARTMENT BUILDING. THUS THERE COULD BE ABSOLUTELY NO DOUBT THAT THIS LISTENING POST HAD BEEN ACTIVELY OPERATED BY THE SOVIET SIDE.

5. THE EMBASSY TOLD THE MINISTRY THAT IT WAS INSTRUCTED TO PROTEST THIS CRUDE INTRUSION INTO ITS CHANCERY, WHICH WAS CALLED TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE AND COUNTER TO EFFORTS TO UNCLASSIFIED

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IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

6. THE EMBASSY'S NOTE DEMANDED THAT THE MINISTRY TAKE IMMEDIATE MEASURES TO PUT AN END TO SUCH INTRUSIONS INTO THE EMBASSY'S DIPLOMATIC PREMISES AND STATED THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONSEQUENCES OF THIS ACTION RESTED WITH THE SOVIET SIDE.

7. THE NOTE WENT ON TO STATE THAT THE UNITED STATES RESERVED THE RIGHT TO RETURN TO THIS MATTER AND TO TAKE ACTIONS IT DEEMED NECESSARY AFTER COMPLETION OF ITS INVESTIGATION.

8. A SOVIET PROTEST NOTE, GIVEN TO OUR EMBASSY ON MAY 28, ASSERTED THAT THE CHIMNEY, WHICH IS CLEARLY WITHIN OUR CHANCERY BUILDING, WAS ACTUALLY SOMEWHERE ELSE AND THAT THE EMBASSY WAS IN THE WRONG FOR HAVING LOOKED INTO THE CHIMNEY. THIS WAS CONSIDERED TOO FARFETCHED TO ANSWER IN WRITING, AND OUR CHARGE ORALLY REJECTED THE SOVIET PROTEST AS TOTALLY ERRONEOUS. END RESPONSE. VANCE

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